

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative
A Community Conversation: "Healthcare - A Right or A Privilege?"
November 1, 2017, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative will host its third Community Conversation for 2017 on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at the Riverfront Community Center, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This Community Conversation, entitled "Healthcare - A Right or A Privilege?," will explore issues relating to whether healthcare is a basic need of every human being; whether access to healthcare is a fundamental human right; whether access to healthcare is currently a right under the Federal or State Constitution; whether there is a Federal or State statutory or regulatory right to healthcare; whether the Government should ensure that all people are provided with access to healthcare regardless of age, gender, and income; how and why many industrialized countries have some form of single payer or universal healthcare; and whether a single-payer healthcare system is a more effective healthcare system than private health insurance.

Our panel will include the following individuals:

Lynne Ide: Ms. Ide, the Director of Program and Policy at the Universal Healthcare Foundation of CT (Foundation), joined the Foundation in January 2006 to coordinate the "healthcare4every1" campaign. She is responsible for the development, coordination, and execution of the Foundation's healthcare policy advocacy, outreach and education efforts, consumer engagement, convening partners, and grant-making strategy. Under her leadership, the Foundation's healthcare4every1 campaign galvanized a broad-based coalition that pushed for the passage of landmark healthcare reform legislation which was passed into law in 2009. Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Ide served as Associate Director of the Connecticut Housing Coalition, Director of the Legislative Electoral Action Program (LEAP), and Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). She has been involved in community organizing and issue advocacy in Connecticut since 1981. Ms. Ide will address the concept of universal healthcare, countries where forms of universal healthcare have been implemented; possible funding mechanisms; and how to avoid over-bureaucratization of a universal healthcare system.

Jason Madras: Mr. Madras is the Vice President for Connecticut at Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, a not-for-profit insurer. At Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Mr. Madras has been involved with establishing insurance exchanges and complying with the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Prior to joining Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Mr. Madras spent 15 years as the Chief Marketing Officer for Access Health CT (AHCT), Connecticut's health insurance exchange, and with Anthem and Aetna. While with AHCT, Mr. Madras launched a state wide marketing campaign which resulted in 230,000 people getting coverage during the first year. By the third year, 600,000 people had signed up for coverage, pushing Connecticut's uninsured rate from 9.6% down to approximately 3%. Mr. Madras has an undergraduate degree in business from the University of Connecticut and an MBA from the NYU Stern School of Business. Mr. Madras will address healthcare issues involving the insurance industry, including financial issues, changes in technology, and the regulatory environment.

Kate McEvoy: Ms. McEvoy, the Director of the Division of Health Services at the Department of Social Services(DSS), is responsible for the administration of medical benefits for over 785,000 Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. Ms. McEvoy is also responsible for overseeing health policy aspects of Connecticut Medicaid's implementation of the ACA. Ms. McEvoy is particularly interested in the intersection of law and medicine with respect to person-centeredness, autonomy in decision-making, and dignity of risk. Ms. McEvoy is the Department's lead liaison to the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council and the State Innovation Model Steering Committee; is the Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Medicaid Directors; and a member of the Steering Committee of the Reforming States Group. Ms. McEvoy has a BA in Economics and English from Oberlin College and a JD degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Ms. McEvoy will address the Medicaid – Medicaid expansion, and the impact of possible changes to the ACA on Medicaid recipients.

Prasad Srinivasan, MD. Dr. Srinivasan is a medical doctor who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of allergies. Dr. Srinivasan is also a politician who represents Glastonbury (Connecticut's 31st District) in the Connecticut General Assembly, where he is the Ranking Member of the General Assembly's Public Health Committee. The Public Health Committee has cognizance over all matters relating to the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Developmental Services, and the Office of Health Care Access. In December 2016, Dr. Srinivasan indicated his intent to create a gubernatorial candidate committee. Dr. Srinivasan received a Legislator of the Year Award in 2013, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and a Hind Ratan Award from the President of India. Dr. Srinivasan will discuss possible ways to repeal and replace parts of the ACA, how to improve the definition of "essential health benefits," and how to "disconnect" the link between employment and health insurance. Dr. Srinivasan is also expected to present his opinions regarding "ObamaCare," "TrumpCare," and the healthcare bill recently introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders.

James Wadleigh: Mr. Wadleigh is the Chief Executive Officer of Access Health CT (AHCT). AHCT is the health insurance marketplace for Connecticut, established as a part of ACA, which enables people and small businesses to purchase health insurance at federally subsidized rates. Mr. Wadleigh is responsible for increasing the number of insured Connecticut residents, improving healthcare quality, lowering costs, and reducing health disparities. Before joining AHCT, Mr. Wadleigh worked for CIGNA, a health services organization. Mr. Wadleigh's career spans 23 years in information technology across multiple insurance industries including healthcare. Mr. Wadleigh has a BS in Business Administration from the University of Vermont, and a Master of Science degree in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Mr. Wadleigh will discuss issues relating to "ObamaCare," "TrumpCare," and the healthcare bill recently introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders.

The program will be moderated and facilitated by Laurence Fleming, who has a background in law and insurance, and who serves as the moderator of the Glastonbury Current Issues discussion group.

There will be a reception from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

A number of Advocacy Groups will have tables where participants will have the opportunity to learn about the mission and work of the various groups and explore volunteer opportunities.

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, formed in 2001, to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together to discuss openly and honestly important issues relating to social justice will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community.

This is a free event open to all. For additional information, please contact David O'Connor at 860- 633-2405 or davidandprem@yahoo.com or Leslie Ohta at 202-538-1161 or leslieohta@gmail.com, or www.glastonburymlkci.org.